

Message Text

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63 R
ACTION SP-02

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 SS-15 PRS-01 ONY-00 /031 W
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R 281405Z SEP 76
FM AMEMBASSY BELGRADE
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 8219
INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

C O N F I D E N T I A L BELGRADE 6369

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: OTRA OVIP (HARRIMAN, W. AVERELL)
SUBJ: HARRIMAN VISIT TO YUGOSLAVIA

REF: STATE 227348 (NOTAL)

1. GOV. HARRIMAN DEPARTED FROM ZAGREB FOR LONDON SEP 27. HE HAD NOT COMPLETED REPORT ON TALKS WITH YUGOSLAV LEADERS BUT PROMISED TO GIVE AMEMBASSY LONDON FOR DESPATCH TO SECRETARY AND TO US. IN CONVERSATION WITH AMBASSADOR SEP 24 HE DESCRIBED MEETINGS WITH VICE PRESIDENT ZARKOVIC AND FOREIGN SECRETARY MINIC AS "COMPLETE BLANK". BUT SWIERS TOLD US BY PHONE THAT KARDELJ MEETING IN SKOPJE SEP 25 OF GREATER INTEREST. HARRIMAN SHARPLY DISAPPOINTED HE DID NOT SEE TITO AND MADE PERSISTENT BUT UNSUCCESSFUL EFFORTS WHILE HERE TO DO SO. HE WAS TOLD BY EX-AMBASSADOR TO US CRNOBRANJ THAT TITO RETURNED TO BELGRADE SEP 24 "TO STAY" AFTER DISAGREEING WITH HIS DOCTORS THAT THERE WAS ANYTHING WRONT WITH HIM AND THAT HE CONTINUED TO HUNT WHILE IN BILJE (SWIERS PLEDGED PROVIDE IN LONDON REPORT EVERYTHING THEY PICKED UP ON BOTH TITO AND KARDELJ'S HEALTH).

2. WHILE NOT GRANTING HARRIMAN A SESSION WITH TITO, HE OTHERWISE GIVEN VIP TREATMENT BY GOY. IN ADDITION TO MEETING THREE LEADERS (WE BELIEVE KARDELJ'S FIRST WITH FOREIGNER SINCE OPERATION), HE ESCORTED BY CRNOBRANJ AND TITO'S CHEF DE CABINET MILUTINOVIC THROUGHOUT, HOUSED REGALLY IN BELGRADE AND BRIONI, AND GIVEN HEADLINE
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COVERAGE IN "POLITIKA" SEP 28 FOR HIS DEPARTURE PRESS CONFERENCE. HEADLINE READS "IT VERY MUCH SUITS THE

UNITED STATES THAT YUGOSLAVIA REMAIN INDEPENDENT AND NON-ALIGNED". HARRIMAN DESCRIBED AS "AMERICAN POLITICIAN AND DIPLOMAT" WHO HERE ON "PRIVATE VISIT IN HIS CAPACITY AS REPRESENTATIVE OF PRESIDENTIAL CANDIDATE JIMMY CARTER". HARRIMAN QUOTED AS SAYING BOTH "PRESENT ADMINISTRATION AND CARTER WANT YUGOSLAVIA TO REMAIN STRONG, POWERFUL, UNITED, INDEPENDENT AND NON-ALIGNED" AND THAT RELATIONS BETWEEN TWO COUNTRIES "IMPROVE STILL FURTHER". HARRIMAN SAID THERE EXISTED A MISUNDERSTANDING ABOUT ATTITUDE OF AMERICAN PEOPLE TOWARD TWA HIJACKING, THAT ONLY PEOPLE WHO READ HIJACKERS' LEAFLETS WERE ONES WHO PRINTED THEM AND THAT AMERICANS HAD NOTHING BUT "CONTEMPT" FOR SUCH AN ACTION.
SWEITZER

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